

Democratic leadership has indicated that they will allow votes on key provisions and allow the votes on such proposals, the chips to fall where they may.

I am confident with a wide range of choices that we will be able to have a longer, stronger prohibition from the congressional lobby revolving door and independent oversight. I hope that Members from both sides of the aisle will seize this opportunity to strengthen our ethics framework.

#### THE HOUSE BUDGET RAISES TAXES AND SPENDING AT UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS

(Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today the Democrat majority is going to bring the House budget resolution to the floor. Last month when they passed the budget resolution, it was the largest tax increase in American history. Today they are bringing a budget resolution to the floor that is slightly an improvement: It is the second largest tax increase in American history. And the only thing that is separating this budget from being the largest tax increase in American history is what they call the "tax trigger," and under their tax trigger, if they actually get to spend all of the money they are hoping to spend, then the surpluses will not materialize and no taxes will be spared and it will yet again become the largest tax increase in American history.

This budget is unprecedented in its scope of its ability to tax and spend. The highest levels of taxes we have ever seen in this country and the highest levels of spending. That is not a way to balance the budget and set our fiscal house in order. We should vote against this budget, which raises taxes and raises spending at unprecedented levels.

#### ALTMIRE-UDALL AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1585

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, last night the House adopted the Altmire-Udall amendment to provide military families with very simple but much needed support while loved ones are away on combat duty.

Under the amendment that was agreed to, a worker can take family and medical leave to deal with the issues that arise as a result of a spouse, parent, or child's deployment to a combat zone like Iraq or Afghanistan. Under this amendment family members can use the leave to take care of issues like making legal and financial arrangements and making child care arrangements or other family obliga-

tions that arise and double when family members are on active duty deployments.

Supporting the troops is more than a bumper sticker. We must support the troops with all of the support that they need so their families can continue to function during the difficult times of deployment. These deployments and extended tours are not easy on families, and two-parent households can suddenly become a single-parent household and one parent is left alone to deal with paying the bills, going to the bank, picking up the kids from school, watching the kids, providing emotional support to the rest of the family. You have got to deal with these predeployment preparations.

This amendment is a good amendment. I hope that the House will support it with the passage of the legislation. Last year, tragically, it was thrown out in the conference committee and was given no consideration by the majority party of the last Congress.

#### AMERICANS' LUST FOR NARCOTICS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the border war is increasingly more violent because of the drug cartels seizing control of areas in Mexico to manufacture drugs.

According to the Associated Press, President Calderon has called out the Mexican military to take out the drug smugglers. But some say the drug cartels have more money and outgun even the military. Recently, seven journalists reporting on the "drug war" have been murdered, the second most dangerous place for a reporter in the world next to Iraq. Thousands of Mexican citizens have been killed in the violence.

But the problem is not just in Mexico. As long as the United States does not protect our borders, the drug barons will continue to ship those drugs to America.

Some estimate the cartels make between \$10 and \$30 billion a year shipping that cancer to America.

But the problem has a third ingredient. It is not enough for the military to control the violence in Mexico. It is not enough for us to secure our borders. But the violence will continue until the American consumers curb their lustful appetite for narcotics.

And that's just the way it is.

#### THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING WAR

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in 2002 this House gave the President a

blank check to go to war. He has gone to war on a very, very shaky basis in Iraq.

Last night, with 10 minutes' debate, we extended the presidential blank check to Iran.

Every morning as I come into my office, I pass the pictures of 75 members of the military from Washington State who have died. How many more are going to die in the war in Iran? We need more than 10 minutes to debate that.

When this country went to war in Vietnam and we extended the war to bombing Cambodia, there was no debate on this floor about that issue. There should be debate, and the President should have a vote of the Congress. They left off the roof with that escalation in Vietnam. They'll do it again if they don't have the support of the Congress.

#### HOUSE LEADERSHIP BENDING THE RULES TO PASS EGREGIOUS TAX-AND-SPEND POLICIES

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, though I am only in my fifth month of service in this Chamber, I have developed a deep admiration and respect for the men and women in this body. But, frankly, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the new House leadership has been inflicted with a severe case of amnesia.

In March of 2005, the then Democratic minority in the House released a report accusing the then Republican majority leadership of abusing their power through parliamentary tactics designed to suppress dissent. The same leadership that published that report over 2 years ago pledged, at the beginning of this very year, to run the "most honest, most open, and most ethical Congress" in history.

Yesterday these leaders attempted to change a 185-year-old House rule to dramatically increase taxes and government spending against the will of the minority party and the American people. Is this really the way to run the self-proclaimed most honest and most open Congress in America's history?

While House leadership may suffer from amnesia, the American people most certainly do not, and bending the rules to pass egregious tax-and-spend policies will not stand in this people's House.

#### TRAVEL AND TOURISM: AMERICA'S FRONT DOOR

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to debate and vote on the Defense bill. And I stand today to talk about a different issue. About an offense. An offense that celebrates the greatness of America.